MEMORIES OF EIGHTY YEARS

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Memories of eighty years by Fanny J. Crosby

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FANNY J. CROSBY

MEMORIES OF EIGHTY YEARS

Trieste



FANNY CROSBY IN HER EIGHTY-SIXTH YEAR.

MEMORIES OF EIGHTY YEARS



THE STORY OF HER LIFE, TOLD BY HERSELF ANCESTRY, CHILDHOOD, WOMANHOOD FRIENDSHIPS, INCIDENTS AND HISTORY OF HER SONGS AND HYMNS

ILLUSTRATED

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DEDICATION

Go little book with many a prayer Go on thy pinions light as air The story and the life portray Of her who sends thee forth to-day Go little book, God's goodness tell Whose praise her soul enraptured sings Who gave the barp she loves so well And in her childhood tuned the strings Gc, little book, her years recall With countless friends so richly blest She murmurs not what'er befall But feels the power of perfect rest Go, little book, should some lone heart Forget in thee one throb of pain Shouldst thou but play this humble part Thy author has not toiled in vain

INANSILATAUM C. U OCT 1923

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INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

OR those friends and acquaintances, who have expressed a wish to read the complete story of my life, from my childhood to the present time, I have undertaken the writing of this book. By including even some incidents that, in themselves, may seem trivial, I have tried to make this account a full and accurate autobiography. In modesty, however, I have also desired to render my story as simple as possible, in fact, to give a vivid picture of my work, my opinions and my aspirations, not only as a teacher but also as a writer of sacred songs; and if I have spoken with a frankness that may seem akin to egotism, I hope that I may be pardoned; for I am fully aware of the immense debt I owe to those numberless friends, only a few of whom I have been able to mention, and especially to that dear Friend of us all, who is our light and life.

Throughout the pages which follow I have availed myself of the kind assistance of several persons; and I desire to acknowledge here especially the services of the Biglow and Main Company for permission to make a few quotations from my copyrighted poems; to J. L. B. Sunderlin, for the use of a number of articles that originally appeared in the "Albany Railroader"; to I. Allan Sankey, Hubert P. Main; Dr. William H. Doane and Mrs. Mary Upham Currier, for corrections,

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

suggestions and stories of the hymns; to my sister, Mrs. Carrie W. Rider, for the single-hearted devotion with which she has aided me in every way she could to make this story of my life all that a loving sister would wish it to be; to my friend, Miss Eva G. Cleaveland, who has warmly seconded my sister's efforts; and to my cousin, William Losee, for pictures of my early home and its surroundings.

In the work of compiling, copying and arranging this book, I am indebted to the valuable services of H. Adelbert White. Like my old physician, Dr. J. W. G. Clements, through whose generous efforts my first book of poems was issued, he has sacrificed every other consideration and patiently devoted himself to my interest. This he has done, however, as a gift of friendship; and I realize that this book never would have been possible without his assistance.

But, if this little volume shall be the means of transmitting sunshine into any life, I am sure that all those, who have so generously given their aid, will feel abundantly rewarded. For myself, it is a rare privilege and pleasure to twine the blossoms I have been gathering in the garden of memory along the journey of life into a wreath which must forever be a token of fellowship and good will.